no objection to the setting up of small extension centres of existing UTs outside their main campuses, which are devoted to continuing education, diploma courses, finishing schools, incubation programmes, etc.

NASSCOM report on employability of engineers

781. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the NASSCOM report which reveals that most of our engineering graduates are unemployable because of lack of skill sets required by the growing ESO/BPO assignments, now being outsourced to the country;

(b) if so, whether, as an immediate measure, Government are planning finishing schools for engineers; and

(c) the long-term planning of Government to enhance the quality of technical education so that the bourgeoning demands of skilled technical personnel could be met adequately?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Finishing Schools on pilot basis were conducted by UT Roorkee and six National Institutes of Technology at Surathkal, Durgapur, Warangal, Jaipur, Calicut and Trichy during the summer months of May-July, 2007 for a period of 8-10weeks.

(c) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is taking steps to ensure that the enrolment to engineering streams touch the figure of about 1 million by 2010-11 from the current level of about 0.50 million in order to alleviate the gap between demand and supply of IT manpower. As a long term measure to enhance the employability of engineering graduates, the AICTE is taking steps to update the syllabus of engineering courses. The Ministry of HRD has also taken up a major initiative to establish 20 new Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIITs) in the country during the 11th Five Year Plan.

Setting up of new polytechnics

782. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out a scheme for setting up of more polytechnics to address the shortage of polytechnics in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of Government to help Orissa in setting up new polytechnics to meet the demand of fast industrialization of this region?